AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

<u>In the claims:</u>

1.   (currently amended) A method for processing network management data in a network management system which generates Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when SNMP event conditions are detected during the monitoring of a network, the method comprising:

receiving network management data relating to an SNMP event condition;

<u>determining whether the event is presently indicated to be a recurring event, and if not, then logging the event as a recurring event if</u> ~~determining whether~~ <u>a</u> predetermined number of equivalent SNMP events have been generated in a preceding time period ~~and if so, generating a recurring event~~;

<u>if the event is presently indicated to be a recurring event, then verifying that the event should remain a recurring event by confirming that a predetermined number of equivalent SNMP events have been generated in the preceding time period and (i) if so verified, then preventing the event from being presented in the event list to the user, and (ii) if not verified, then logging the event as a normal event.</u>

~~receiving data relating to a subsequent occurrence of the recurring event, and preventing a subsequent event from being presented in the event list to the user.~~

2.   (cancelled)

3.   (cancelled)

4.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising adding a time stamp to the event data of the recurring event, the time stamp indicating the time of the subsequent occurrence of the event condition.

5.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preceding time period is an immediately preceding predetermined time period.

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6.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein data relating to an event is recorded in event storage and includes the time of the event, the step of determining whether a predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in a preceding time period comprising:

        determining the number of equivalent events in the event storage having a time within the predetermined time period, and comparing the determined number with the predetermined number.

7.   (cancelled)

8.   (previously presented) A method for processing a network management data in a network management system which generates Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when SNMP event conditions are detected during the monitoring of a network, the method comprising:

        receiving network management data relating to an SNMP event condition;

        determining whether the monitored characteristic for the SNMP event condition is in a recurring state; and if so

        determining whether the event condition has occurred more than a first predetermined number of times in a first preceding time period; and, if so,

        preventing the received data relating to the event condition from being presented in the event list to the user.

9.   (cancelled)

10.   (cancelled)

11.   (cancelled)

12.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising adding to event data of the event in the recurring state the time of the received data relating to the event condition.

13.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein, if it is determined that the event condition has not occurred more than the first predetermined number of times in the first immediately preceding time period, the method further comprises generating an event for presentation in the event list to the user.

14.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the generated event is not a recurring event.

15.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein it is determined that the monitored characteristic for the event condition is not in a recurring state, the method further comprises determining whether a second predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in a second preceding time period.

16.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, if it is determined that the second predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in the second preceding time period, the method further comprises generating a recurring event.

17.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 16, after the step of generating a recurring event, the method further comprises receiving data relating to a subsequent occurrence of the event condition, and preventing a subsequent event from being presented in the event list to the user.

18.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising, after the step of receiving data relating to a subsequent occurrence of the event condition, adding a time stamp to the event data of the recurring event, the time stamp indicating the time of the subsequent occurrence of the event condition.

19.   (original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, if it is determined that the second predetermined number of equivalent events have not been generated in the second

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preceding time period, the method further comprises generating an event for presentation in the event list to the user.

20.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first and/or second preceding time period is an immediately preceding predetermined time period.

21.   (original) A computer readable medium including a computer program for carrying out the method as defined in claim 1.

22.   (cancelled)

23.   (currently amended) A network management apparatus for monitoring a network and for processing network management data and generating Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when SNMP event conditions are detected, the apparatus comprising a processor for receiving network management data relating to an SNMP event condition, and for determining whether a predetermined number of equivalent SNMP events have been generated in a preceding time period, and if so, designating the event as being in a recurring state, and ignoring subsequent event conditions associated with recurring events as long as the event condition remains in a verified recurring state.

24.   (cancelled)

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